



AGENCY NEWS

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Texas Education Agency Announces Updates to Public Health Guidance; TEA Also Provides Updates to COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

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On March 2, 2021, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-34  (<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/EO-GA-34-opening-Texas-response-to-COVID-disaster-IMAGE-03-02-2021.pdf>) which addresses the statewide wearing of face coverings (i.e., masks), which takes effect March 10, 2021. TEA's authority to implement operational requirements for public schools remains in effect (e.g., TEA's Public Health Guidance).

As a result of the lifting of the order on masks, TEA has updated its Public Health Guidance (<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>). Under this updated guidance, a public school system's current practices on masks may continue unchanged. Local school boards have full authority to determine their local mask policy.

TEA has also made updates related to surface cleaning requirements.

Additionally, the Department of State Health Services announced today  (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news/releases/2021/20210303.aspx>) that educators and school support staff are eligible for vaccines effective immediately. See this link (https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/k-12_covid-19_vaccine_faq.pdf) for more information.

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